

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of December 1, 2005, in which claims 1-20 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1-5, 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,225,011 to Gotoh, et al. Claims 6, 9, 12-16 and 18-20 are rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotoh, in view of U.S. Patent 6,801,825 to Utsonomyia.

In addition, claim 7 is rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotoh, in view of U.S. Patent 4,769,523 to Tanimoto, et al. Claim 17 is rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotoh, in view of Utsonomyia, and further in view of Tanimoto. Finally, claim 8 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

As an initial matter, Figures 1b, 2, 3 and 4 have been amended to address each of the outstanding objections to the drawings and specification set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that the same be withdrawn.

With regard to the §103 rejections outlined above, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended as set forth above to incorporate the language of now cancelled claim 8. This amendment therefore places remaining claims 1-7 and 9-20 in condition for allowance.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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